

S. No.	States	No. of Projects
14.	Nagaland	-
15.	Orissa	11
16.	Punjab	23
17.	Rajasthan	5
18.	Sikkim	-
19.	Tamil Nadu	27
20.	Tripura	-
21.	Uttar Pradesh	23
22.	West Bengal	21
23.	Mizoram	-
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
25.	Goa	-
26.	Delhi	3
Total:		250

Literacy Drive

6444. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have proposed to involve more non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the literacy drive;

(b) whether the involvement of NGO's would achieve greater success in the literacy drive; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direc-

tion?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) There is a Central Scheme of assistance to voluntary agencies in adult education under which voluntary agencies are sanctioned projects of literacy/adult education.

(b) and (c). The Scheme has been revised and circulated in October 1991 envisaging that voluntary agencies would undertake projects in a compact and contiguous area to eradicate illiteracy in the age-groups of 15-35 within a period of two years on

volunteer-based programme. The Scheme has now been made result-oriented, cost-effective time-bound and area-specific. Following steps have been taken to ensure proper implementation of the projects under this Scheme.

- (i) Traditional centre-based programme with payment of honorarium to instructor would not be supported in future. The projects would now be implemented as total literacy campaigns with the objective of making a compact and contiguous area literate within a period of two years.
- (ii) Financial pattern has been made flexible with all additional component of environment building so that conducive environment may be generated and sustained during the project period.
- (iii) Teaching and learning material to be used in the projects has been developed on the new technique of Improved Page & Content of Learning.
- (iv) State Resource Centres and District Resource Units all over the country would provide technopedagogic support.
- (v) Selection of voluntary agencies has been streamlined in collaboration with State Governments/ Union Territories so that only voluntary agencies having a good track record of social service may be involved in the programme.
- (vi) Workshops are being conducted at State Resource Centres to appraise the voluntary agencies about the revised guidelines and also help them in the field of environ-

ment building and teaching pedagogy.

Palace on Wheels

6445. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to organise a one week round trip on Palace on Wheels for 50 guests on a complimentary basis;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the benefits expected from this gesture; and

(c) whether this train has been designed primarily for foreign tourists against payment in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Palace on Wheels is a project aimed at development of tourism in Rajasthan. Indians as well as foreign nationals can travel on this train. The foreign nationals/ NRIs pay the tariff in US dollars and the Indians in rupees.

[Translation]

Special Trains for Singhasht

6446. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run special trains for the Singhasht Mahapurb to be started in Ujjain from April 17, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and